

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING DATA PACKET~~
~~TRANSPORTATION~~

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system that ~~Embodiments of the present invention~~
~~described and shown in the specification and drawings~~
facilitate data packet transportation. ~~One aspect of the~~
~~invention multiplexes~~ includes multiplexing time-sensitive TDM
(Time Division Multiplexed) and other synchronous data, and
asynchronous data traffic, onto a communication channel in a
manner that minimizes jitter in the delivery of the TDM data
traffic while efficiently transporting asynchronous data
traffic. The system may also include ~~Another aspect of the~~
~~invention provided~~ dynamic bandwidth sharing on a
communication ring. The dynamic sharing aspect of the system
~~present invention~~ facilitates the efficient utilization of
bandwidth of communication rings, particularly in those rings
that cover large geographic areas.